



Among Friends

MARCH, 2023



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Greetings:

Here we go...Lent 2023. Most of the time we are asked, “what are you giving up for Lent?” Most of the time we give up chocolate or fast food or smoking, but what does that have to do with Lent? Lent becomes about us and not about what Christ has sacrificed for us. I would like to offer some suggestions. This Lenten season, give up watching television a few hours a week and spend the time with a shut-in. Or how about giving up fast food one day a week and give the money you saved to a food bank. When you go to the grocery store, ask your elderly neighbors if they need any groceries. I’m sure you can think of many more ways to help others and show them the love of Christ. After all, Lent isn’t about us...it’s about the sacrifice of love that Jesus made for all of us!

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed; ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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APRIL

**Newsletter
Deadline**

March 22

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March 3, 2023

Deadline for
APRIL
submission of
information is
MARCH 22

Submit to:
Sue Datt via
"Snail Mail"
324 S. Main St.
Harrisville, PA 16038

E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com

Phone:
724-991-5863

From Our Pastor's Desk (continued)

As we begin this Lenten season, we need to humble ourselves before God and before others. On Ash Wednesday, we begin the walk to the cross and we will see just how serious our sins are...but we will also see just how much Jesus loves us. This journey begins at the foot of the cross, but praise God it ends with the empty tomb!

In His love,
Diane

*... the journey
ends with the
empty tomb.*



(This letter was written in 2019, however it still applies in 2023)

Also, Frank and I would like to offer our thanks to all who kept us in prayer after Jeff's accident. He is truly a miracle; all because of the many prayers offered. Also thank you for all the kind words and support. Jeff is healing and soon will be fully recovered. Praise be to God!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FPC

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 5 | SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Communion and Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.,
Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |
| March 8 | FPC Presbyterian Women Meeting , 7:00 p.m.,
Community Center. Our Bible study is on Lonely
Hearts. We also discuss plans for the next few
months. Hostesses for the evening will be
Heather and Sue Datt. All women of the church
are invited to join us. |
| March 12 | THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at
9:45 a.m., Worship Center, Dr. Donald
Rumbaugh will lead the service. |
| March 19 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday
school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |
| March 26 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday
school at 9:45 a.m., Worship Center |

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?

THE SATURDAY CONCERT

Our 2023 season begins April 8 with a returning favorite, Ken Metrick. Invite your friends and neighbors to what is sure to be a great concert. Church members are asked to bring snacks and desserts. Doors open at 6:30 for snacks, beverages, and fellowship. The concert begins promptly at 7pm.



The women of the church will meet at the Community Center at 7 pm on March 8th. Our Bible study is on Lonely Hearts. We will discuss plans for the next few months. Hostesses for the evening are Sue and Heather Datt. All women of the church are invited to join us



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET DRIVE:

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

When you donate \$5, a red heart will be added to the blanket hung in the sanctuary. Let's fill the blanket again this year!

Donation envelopes will be available in the vestibule. Our CWS Blanket

A prayer about loving our neighbors:

Lord, you have said that to truly love you then I must also love my neighbor, which can be difficult when we disagree or lifestyles clash. Yet in overcoming those difficulties, it is possible to see the miracle that you love someone like me. Teach us to love, Lord, as you have loved us, that this world might be a better neighborhood in which to live and share. Amen.



Submitted by Ruth Keith

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Adult Sunday School: The spring quarter lessons are entitled "Chosen, Not Choice: Jesus Calls Us." We will be studying Jesus' ministry here on earth and the birth of the church following His death, resurrection, and ascension. March lessons show Jesus reaching out to people "on the margins". In the scriptures we will study, He will tell the parable of the prodigal son, say that a child is the "greatest" in the Kingdom, welcome a Samaritan woman, and heal a man possessed by a legion of demons. All are welcome to join in for a time of Bible study, discussion and sharing. Class begins at 9:30am every Sunday.

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month the Young Adult Sunday School is studying the final days of Jesus. They will focus on what their response is to him. As they study Jesus' triumphal entry, they will think about the question: Do you love Jesus or just follow the crowd? The class meets each week at 9:45 a.m.





Presented by Beaver-Butler Presbytery

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EVENT

MORE Workshops for ALL Church Leaders
Elders, Pastors, Deacons, Worship, Youth, Treasurers, Clerks

Sunday, March 19

2-5 p.m.

Registration—1:45 p.m.

Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church
2662 Rochester Road
Cranberry Township, Pa

MORE Workshops for ALL Church Leaders

New this year — Attendees can now pick 2 of the following workshops.

- 1—*So, You've Been Asked to Read the Scripture Lessons Next Sunday* led by Rev. John C.R. Silbert, M.Div.
- 2—*Practical Skills for Deacons and Care Givers* led by Rev. A. David Paul, M.S., M.Div.
- 3—*I'm an Elder, Now What? 101 BASIC and/or 201 ADVANCED* led by Pastor Tom McMeekin, CRE
- 4—*Presbyterian Women's Ministry* led by Elder Mary Rae Thompson, Moderator of Beaver-Butler Presbyterian Women
- 5—*Being the Church Treasurer* led by Lauren Cesnales, Beaver-Butler Presbytery Treasurer
- 6—*Answers to Perplexing Clerk Questions 101 BASIC and/or 201 ADVANCED* led by Rev. Randall Clow, Stated Clerk of Beaver-Butler Presbytery
- 7—*Difficult Conversations* led by Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon, Executive Presbyter of Beaver-Butler
- 8—*General Assembly* led by Rev. Leigh Benish and Elder Judy Lipscak
- 9—*Adventures in Youth Ministry* led by Diana Mermon Spencer

Event Schedule

- 1:45 p.m.—Registration
- 2 p.m.—Gathering for Prayer & Praise
- 2:15 p.m.—Workshop A
- 3:15 p.m.—Break
- 3:45—Workshop B
- 4:45 p.m.—Evaluations

\$5 per person

Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 15

If you have a question, call the Presbytery Office at 724-452-7515.

Mail in your registration form and remittance to:

Beaver-Butler Presbytery
P.O. Box 279
Zelienople, PA 16063

OR

Register and pay online with PayPal or credit card.

[REGISTER ONLINE
CLICK HERE](#)



Prayer List

Anne D.
April and Todd Bentley
Bonnie of Georgia
Christy Francine
The Alben Family
Leslie Alford
The Allison Family
Jane Allison
Carly Atkisson
Zachary Barto
Jan Bloom
Candy Boulanger
Kayla Brundige
Tyler Burson
Joanne Campbell
Martie Cooper
Phyllis Cooper
Louise Corbett
Jeff & Cindy Cross
Heather Datt
William Datt
Jim Dickey
Mark Doerr
Blanche English
Jennifer Gilliland
Donna Grossman

Chris Hogg
Timothy James
Rev. & Mrs. William Jamieson
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
The Family of Ed Lind
Joe Lowers
Amber Matteo
Will McCoy
Mary Messer
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
David Parker
Bernie Rihel
Bill & Chris Schroeder
Cindy Solman's Mother & Sister
George Sonnet & Family
Joe Vivelo
Seth Vogan
Donna Walker
Joan West
Michelle Whitehouse
Woman from Michigan
Our military at home & abroad

Persecuted Christians around the world
Alpha Omega Center
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard
Beaver Butler Presbytery
Cooperstown Church Family
Friendship Church Family
S. R. Community Nursery School
Trevor Wood's Ministry
All those who have been Impacted by COVID19.
All those impacted by mass shootings in the United States.
The people of Ukraine and Russia, their leaders, the world leaders and the world's people.
The people of Syria and Turkey who have be impacted by the devastating earthquake and aftershocks.

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord."
James 5:16

REMINISCING A BIT..



Today I came across an old Sunday School songbook, **Action Songs for Boys and Girls.** It has to be at least 60 years old if not more. It's still in fair shape and the price is listed as 40 cents. As I started looking through it, I was reminded of so many songs that we "older folks" sang back in our Sunday School days. Do you remember **"Oh, be careful little eyes what you see, for the Father up above is looking down in love, so be careful..."** Other verses had warnings of being careful, "little ears what you hear", little tongue, what you say, and "little hands what you do.", etc. A few pages later, I came across **"I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart....down in my heart to stay"** as well as "the peace that passeth understanding," and the "love of Jesus." I remember adding in a resounding "Where?" after the "down in my heart" part. And how about **"The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that's the book for me; I stand alone on the word of God, the B-I-B-L-E."** Other title: **Fishers of Men, This Little Light of Mine, I'll Be A Sunbeam for Jesus.**

What memories! I think some of these tunes are going to be running through my mind for quite awhile.



Submitted by Ruth Keith



Joanne Campbell, 3/3
Wendi Vukson, 3/4
Mark Weidner, 3/10
Patty Musulin, 3/16
Savanna Crawford, 3/24
Kare Pepper, 3/27
Michelle Whitehouse, 3/31



On the Road Again



JUNE 8-9, 2023
2 Days - 1 Night



Live on Stage at:



Tour Cost: \$370 per person double occupancy
\$360 per person triple occupancy (two beds)
\$350 per person quad occupancy (two beds)
\$425 per person single occupancy

Tour Includes: Roundtrip motorcoach transportation
One night accommodations Country Inn & Suites
One Breakfast - Day 2, Country Inn & Suites
Lunch - Day 2, Shady Maple Smorgasbord (Awesome!)
Dinner—Day 1, Amish Home Family-Style
Sight and Sound Theatre – **MOSES**
Bird-In-Hand Bakery (Goodies)
New Holland Agriculture Tour / Harrisburg Capitol Tour
All taxes, meal gratuities.

Deposit Due: \$50.00 per person to guarantee your reservation

Balance Due: Friday, May 5, 2023

Checks Payable: Jeff Cross

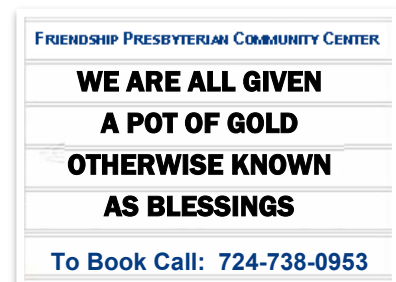
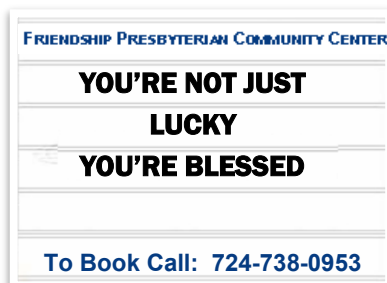
Forward to: Jeff Cross
328 South Main Street
Harrisville, PA 16038

Please call Jeff Cross to save your place! (724) 498-5957

LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

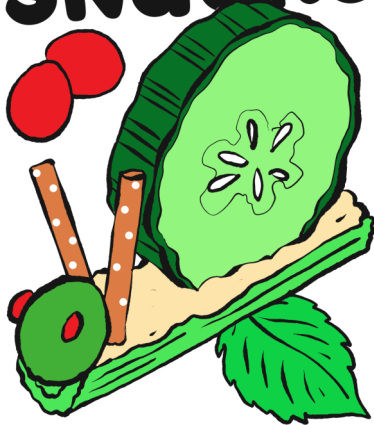
Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

When driving past the Community Center don't forget to watch for the signs of humor and encouragement.



JUST FOR FUN

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:


1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!





A seasonal reminder


Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.


Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.


 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger

 seeds are planted in this

 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____
come up and a _____ causes

_____ to _____, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

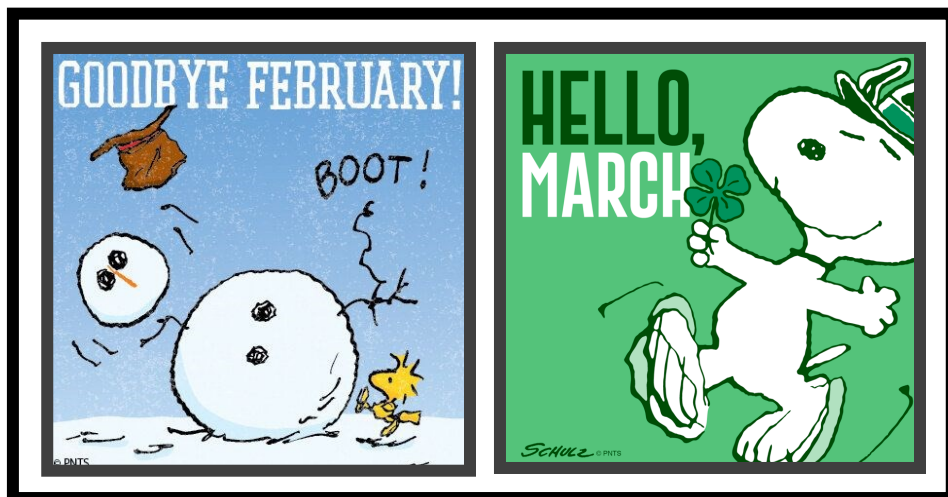
and praise _____ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, jump, spring, expand, rain, bird, flower, diamond



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



*SUBMITTED BY
HEATHER DATT*